



Arlington Stormwater Utility Fee

FACTS



Effective October 1, 2007, the City of Arlington's Stormwater utility fee structure and rate will be changing. Under the new fee structure, every property owner will pay the same unit rate based on the amount of impervious area on the property. Impervious area is defined as a surface that is resistant to infiltration by rain water. Several examples of impervious areas include asphalt or concrete pavement, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, and buildings.

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Based on a study of Arlington residential property, the average square feet of impervious surface is 2800, referred to as an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU).

Effective October 1, 2007 the new minimum monthly fee is \$2.00 per ERU. This fee will be increased each year for the following three years as follows: October 1, 2008 - \$2.75; October 1, 2009 - \$3.50; October 1, 2010 - \$4.25. Residential parcels will be billed based on one ERU for a total monthly fee of \$2.00.

### RESIDENTIAL

Residential parcels include any benefitted property platted, zoned or used for residential development including single family, duplex, triplex, quadraplex, townhomes, manufactured homes or other improved parcel upon which buildings contain less than five dwelling units.

### NON-RESIDENTIAL

The monthly fee for non-residential parcels will be determined by dividing impervious (i.e. Roofs and paved surfaces) area square footage by 2800 square feet and multiplying by \$2.00 – the result shall be a minimum of 1 ERU for each non-residential account.

Non-residential parcels include all benefitted property that is not defined as residential by the storm water utility ordinance, including commercial, industrial, institutional, multifamily and governmental property.

### **What other changes will customers see related to the Stormwater Utility fee?**

- ◆ Any non-residential property on which mitigation measures have been taken may be eligible for a credit to the storm water fee. The Director of Public Works and Transportation shall adjust the fee for such properties according to the actual mitigative effect of the measures taken. Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were required as part of development are not eligible for credits.
- ◆ Apartments will be considered non-residential for the purpose of the calculation of the stormwater fee.
- ◆ Payment of stormwater utility fees will continue to be billed monthly; non payment of this bill will result in discontinuance of any utility services provided by the City.



# Arlington Stormwater Utility Fee



## ***What is stormwater?***

Stormwater is rainfall. It is that portion of rainfall that does not infiltrate into the soil. Rainfall that runs off of roofs, roads and other surfaces flows into gutters, streams, rivers and creeks. This water can carry contaminants such as plastic bags, detergents, nutrients, heavy metals and pollution that can be harmful to the environment.

## ***How is the city's stormwater management program funded?***

The City of Arlington established a Stormwater Utility in 1990, in accordance with state legislation, as a way to fund maintenance operations that help to control drainage and improve water quality from storm water runoff. The fee is used to help fund activities such as maintenance and projects designed to eliminate flooding and water quality permitting processes associated with compliance with state and federal environmental laws.

## ***How much is the fee?***

The new minimum monthly fee is \$2.00 per ERU. This fee will be increased each year for the following three years as follows: October 1, 2008 - \$2.75; October 1, 2009 - \$3.50; October 1, 2010 - \$4.25. Residential parcels will be billed based on one ERU for a total monthly fee of \$2.00

## ***Who pays the fee?***

The fee is charged to all developed properties within the city limits of Arlington. The amount appears on the monthly water, wastewater and refuse bill statements.

## ***What is the fee used for?***

To improve and manage the quantity and quality of stormwater shed in our community.

## ***How much revenue is being collected annually from the current Stormwater Utility fee?***

During Fiscal Year 2007, the City of Arlington collected approximately \$2.8 million.

## ***What are some challenges of the stormwater management program?***

Increased sources of stormwater pollution, erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and debris in creeks and streams have been identified as some of the largest challenges facing

the city's ability to better manage its storm water program. Aging infrastructure and funding are other critical challenges, according to a study completed last year by the Citizens Policy Review Committee.

## ***Why is a stormwater management plan needed?***

Water is a very precious resource. Within the city limits of Arlington, there are 10 major water sheds and nearly 137 miles of natural creeks and streams. Trinity River, Village Creek and Rush Creek, which includes the areas of Dalworthington Gardens and Pantego, are among the largest. The maintenance of these areas is important to overall quality of life, environment, and drinking water supply.

## ***What could an expanded stormwater management program accomplish?***

An expanded program can mitigate flooding and erosion related damage. It would also establish watershed management strategies and establish requirements to help minimize downstream impacts, as well as expand preventive maintenance and inspection programs. Currently, preventive maintenance on concrete channels, bridges, culverts and inlets are limited. Basic maintenance is performed, but regular inspection and maintenance are beyond current capabilities.

Funding is limited for preventive maintenance. A backlog exceeds \$40 million. Current funding for these needs are between \$500,000 and \$900,000 annually. There are no funds available for potential property purchases. There is no funding available to maintain public ponds and creeks.

## ***What other cities in the Metroplex have a Stormwater Utility fees and how does Arlington's rate structure compare?***

Most cities have these fees and are required by law to manage the quantity and quality of stormwater.

The average residential Stormwater Utility fee, based on information from a survey of 36 other Texas cities, is \$3.84 per month. Arlington's current residential fee is the fourth lowest at \$1.30 per month. The average commercial fee for the cities surveyed is \$34.11 per acre of impervious area. Our new fee will be \$31.11 per acre of impervious area, still below the average for the region.